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Humble Bees at Roundhay, Leeds

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Recommended Citation

Bradley, A. E., "Humble Bees at Roundhay, Leeds" (1923). *Bo*. Paper 79.
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From "The Naturalist", February 1923.

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HUMBLE BEES AT ROUNDHAY, LEEDS.

A. E. BRADLEY.

IN *The Naturalist*, p. 14, I am quoted as saying that out of the twenty-three British *Bombi* I had taken twenty species at Roundhay. This should be 'Humble Bees,' the British species of which, as recognised by Sladen, comprise seventeen *Bombi* and six *Psithyri*.

The only three British species which I have not secured in this suburb of a large manufacturing town are:—(1) *B. lapponicus* Fab., which, though found in various Yorkshire localities, is mainly a mountain bee, and hardly to be expected; (2) *B. cullumanus* K., of which only a few males have been certainly recorded as British, all from the South Eastern Counties; and (3) *B. sylvarum* L., which occurs in the Wakefield district, and may even yet appear at Roundhay. As well as an exceptional number of species, this very limited area has yielded quite a number of marked varieties, and several can be added to these if one goes a mile or two farther afield. The *Psithyrus* varieties have all been recorded in *The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, June, 1922, and Jan., 1923, and include some novelties.

Though the best hunting grounds for Aculeates have recently been ruined one after the other by building operations and 'improvements,' the two latest additions to the list of Roundhay species (viz., *B. latreillellus* K. and *B. ruderatus* Fab.) were made as recently as May, 1922. All the twenty species have been seen quite lately, except *B. jonellus* K.; my last capture here (a queen) was in April, 1915, when several queens were also caught at Adel Dam, four miles away. *B. soroënsis* Fab. deserves a special note. During seven years all I saw of it was a single worker taken in the 'Canal Gardens' of Roundhay Park by Mr. A. Hodgson. In July and August, 1921, not only in Roundhay, but also in the Scarcroft and Collingham districts, almost every good patch of *Centaurea nigra* would yield some males or workers, or both. This very local bee also appeared in great numbers in 1921 in a district of the Cotswolds, which Dr. R. C. L. Perkins and his uncle, the late V. R. Perkins, both hymenopterists, had, between them, worked for fifty years without ever seeing it. It was abundant in the same year in Devon, and Mr. C. H. Mortimer found it extraordinarily so at Newhaven, Sussex, and at Aberdovey, Merionethshire. (My own experience in May-June, 1921, in West Carnarvonshire, where in several past years I had found the species quite common, was that the hibernated queens were very rare indeed; I only saw two in three weeks, both weather-beaten. Mr. C. L. Walton reports also, 'Sparingly in Carnarvon, 1921.') During 1922, not a single example of *B. soroënsis* could I find in the Leeds district.

1923 Feb. 1

In 1923 I took 1 early queen, & later 1 male.

Aug

YORKSHIRE GEOLOGY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Geological Section of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union was held at Halifax on Saturday, October 14th. The venue of this meeting was chosen with the object of reviving geological interest in the district, and to enlist the services of local workers in the zoning of the Millstone Grit.

In 1898, James Spencer, of Halifax, pointed out that *Glyphioceras reticulatum*, one of the commonest of the goniatites found in this area, was passing through a series of changes in shape and ornamentation during its passage through the Millstone Grit (*Proc. Yorks. Geol. Society*, Vol. XIII., Pt. IV., pp. 375-394, 1899). Mr. Bisat has studied these variations, and now recognizes three mutations from the type form which is found in Crimsworth Dene. These mutations occur at successively higher horizons in the grits, and have been noted in a large area of the county south of the River Aire.

Two of these horizons were pointed out by Mr. Bisat during the afternoon excursion to Cat i' th' Well Clough.

The evening meeting was held in the Belle Vue Museum, Professor Gilligan presiding. After the reading of the report, and the election of Officials for 1923, Mr. Bisat gave an address on the zoning of the Millstone Grit, illustrating his remarks by specimens of goniatites. A discussion followed, in which the President, Mr. W. B. Wright, of the Geological Survey, Mr. J. W. Jackson, of Manchester, and others took part.

Mr. C. J. Spencer exhibited goniatites found in the neighbourhood of Halifax, and Mr. Rothwell sent collections from three separate localities near Sowerby Bridge. Mr. Bisat also had on view finely preserved specimens of one of the mutations of *G. reticulatum* from a boring at Saltaire.

Staying over the week-end, Mr. Bisat and the writer had an opportunity of examining a number of marine horizons in the Todmorden valley, in company with Messrs. Howe, Wright, and Lloyd, of the Geological Survey. Goniatites were found in five different localities, and sufficient material was collected to correlate the beds in this district with others north and south. The next Annual Meeting will be held at Bradford on October 13th, 1923.—J. HOLMES.

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Vol. XXIII. of *The Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society* contains Dr. Henry's Presidential Address on 'Medical Origins' and 'Astrology in Medicine' by Dr. A. L. MacLeod.

'Homoe-osis in *Coenonympha pamphilus* L.' by Dr. E. A. Cockayne; and 'Records from a South Hampshire Lepidopterist's Log-Book for 1920,' by A. T. Postans, appear in *The Entomologist* for January.

We have received the *Reports of the Moss Exchange Club*, Section II., for the years 1920 and 1921, and the Twenty-Seventh Annual Report for 1922, from the secretary. All interested in the distribution of mosses in this country, and in the identification of difficult species, should consult these reports.

Among the contents of the *Proceedings of the University of Durham Philosophical Society*, Part 3 of Vol. VI., recently received, we notice 'Blade Leakage in Reaction Steam Turbines,' by John Morrow; 'A New Theory of Laughter,' by J. X. T. Greig; and 'Plato's Development of the Socratic Paradox "That Vice is Involuntary,"' by Miss C. M. Shipley.

We have received *The Annual Report of the Chief Librarian and Curator of the Northampton Museum*, which indicates that considerable interest is being taken in the Museum and Art Gallery in that town, and, in addition to looking after the collections, the committee is paying attention to the renovation of the old buildings in which some of them are housed.